

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claims 20, 28, 30, 33, and 38 have been amended. Claims 1-19, 29, 31, and 37 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 20-28, 30, 32-36, and 38 remain pending in the present application. No new matter has been added. In light of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all presently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. THE SPECIFICATION OBJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

The specification stands objected to for lack of proper headings and informalities. Applicant respectfully submit that the proper headings were entered and the informalities were cured in the substitute specification filed on May 26, 2006. Thus, the withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

III. THE CLAIM OBJECTION SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 33 and 38 stand objected to due to informalities. In light of the amendments to these claims, the withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

IV. THE 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 20, 24, 25, 27-31, and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being obvious over Takigawa (U.S. Patent No. 4,774,470) in view of Cherrington (European Published App. No. 0291193). Claims 21-23 and 32-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being obvious over Takigawa, Cherrington, and further in view of Girault (U.S. Patent No. 4,116,011). Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being obvious over Takigawa, Cherrington, and further in view of Landrichter (U.S. Patent No. 6,565,285).

The Examiner concedes that claim 37 contains allowable subject matter. (See 7/21/09 Office Action, p. 10). Claim 37 has been cancelled and its limitations, as well as

the limitations of the intermediate claims, have been incorporated into independent claim 20. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Takigawa, Cherrington, Girault, and Lanricheter, taken alone or in any combination, fail to disclose the limitations of independent claims 20 and that claim 20 is allowable. Because claims 21-27 depend on and, therefore, contain all of the limitations of claim 20, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

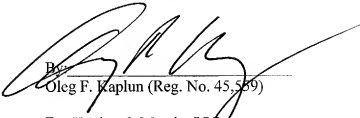
Claim 28 also contains the limitations of cancelled claim 37. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Takigawa, Cherrington, Girault, and Lanricheter, taken alone or in any combination, fail to disclose the limitations of independent claims 28 and that claim 28 is also allowable. Because claims 30, 32-36, and 38 depend on and, therefore, contain all of the limitations of claim 28, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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